

810-5-1-.245 Non-Residents Operating Non-Commercial Vehicles into Alabama and Non-Residents Relocating to Alabama. **(REPEAL)**

(1) The provisions of this rule are applicable to non-commercial vehicles owned and operated by non-residents of Alabama when operated into Alabama. Noncommercial vehicles shall include privately owned and operated passenger automobiles, pickup trucks (not being used in a commercial endeavor), trailers, including travel, utility, and motor homes used strictly for recreational purposes.

(2) Section 40-12-262 (a), Code of Alabama 1975, is interpreted as authorizing someone relocating to Alabama to operate their vehicle(s) in Alabama for 30 consecutive calendar days displaying a current and valid license plate and registration to their vehicle(s) from their previous home residence.

(3) The vehicle owner(s) relocating to Alabama may operate their vehicle(s) in interstate and intrastate movements during the 30 day period, said period beginning on the day that the vehicle enters Alabama to be based in Alabama.

(4) The vehicle owner(s) may register the vehicle anytime during the 30 day period; provided, that on the 31st day, liability for Alabama motor vehicle registration fees attach, and, if not paid by the 31st day, motor vehicle registration penalties attach and must be paid when registering the vehicle(s). Provided, if the 31st day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, state holiday, or other day that the license plate issuing official's office is closed, the penalty will not attach if registration fees are paid on the next business day.

(5) If the non-resident enters the State of Alabama without vehicle registration issued to the vehicle owner from the vehicle owner's previous home jurisdiction, or if the out-of-state motor vehicle registration has expired, the provisions of Section 40-12-262.

(a) allowing a 30 day period to register the vehicle are not applicable, and the liability for Alabama registration fees attaches on the day the vehicle(s) enters the state, and if not paid on that date, delinquency penalties attach on the following day. Also, provisions requiring display of license plates are applicable on the day the vehicle enters the state, and law enforcement may cite the vehicle operator for operating the vehicle without registration when the vehicle enters the state. Furthermore, if the non-resident's out-of state vehicle registration expires after entering Alabama, but before the 30 day period ends, penalty and law enforcement sanctions become applicable on the day after the out-of-state registration expires.

(6) If a non-resident enters the State of Alabama without a license plate issued to the vehicle owner, but has been issued a temporary registration (which is properly displayed), the vehicle owner may legally operate the vehicle in Alabama as long as the temporary registration remains valid.

(7) In the event that a non-resident enters Alabama with a vehicle based in another jurisdiction, and that jurisdiction exempts from its registration requirements the type vehicle being operated into Alabama, it shall be the responsibility of the nonresident owner to prove to the satisfaction of law enforcement that the previous jurisdiction exempted such vehicles from registration. Provided, the vehicle must be registered in Alabama within the time frame specified in this rule.

(8) In the event the Alabama Department of Revenue enters into a motor vehicle registration reciprocity agreement with another jurisdiction(s) pursuant to Section 40-12-262, and the provisions of the reciprocity agreement conflict with the provisions of this rule, the provisions of the agreement shall prevail.

(9) In the event a vehicle owner in the U.S. military, or his/her spouse is assigned by virtue of military orders to an Alabama location, and when entering Alabama is displaying a current and valid out-of-state plate issued in the jurisdiction where the serviceman, or his/her spouse was previously based, said vehicle owner may operate the vehicle displaying the out-of-state registration for the 30 day period authorized by Section 40-12-262. Note that this provision is applicable in situations where the serviceman, or his/her spouse is operating with a license plate issued in the jurisdiction where he or she was previously based by virtue of military orders — if registered in the serviceman's home of record jurisdiction, Alabama will honor the registration, in accordance with the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, as long as the registration is current and valid. Furthermore, Alabama will honor a current and valid license plate issued by the U.S. military to servicemen's vehicles when stationed outside the United States during this 30 day period.

(10) In accordance with policy positions of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), Alabama will honor current and valid out-of-state license plates on vehicles being operated by non-resident students attending colleges and universities within Alabama. This includes students involved in intern programs.

**Author:** James Starling  
**Authority:** Sections 40-2A-7(a)(5) and 40-12-262(a), Code of Alabama 1975  
**History:** **New rule:** Filed March 30, 2007, effective May 4, 2007.  
**Amended:** Filed August 27, 2010, effective October 1, 2010  
**Repealed and New:** Filed December 20, 2021.

(1) The provisions of this rule are applicable to operation of private passenger vehicles in Alabama when owned and operated by non-residents. Private passenger vehicles shall include privately owned and operated passenger automobiles, motorcycles, pickup trucks, trailers, including travel, utility, and motor homes used strictly for recreational purposes.

(2) Grace Period for Non-Residents. Pursuant to §40-12-262(a), Code of Ala. 1975, a non-resident may operate their vehicle(s) in Alabama for 30 consecutive calendar days with a current and valid license plate and registration from their previous jurisdiction of residence.

(a) The 30-day grace period begins on the day the vehicle first enters Alabama. The vehicle owner must register the vehicle within the 30-day grace period. Motor vehicle registration penalties and interest are due on the 31<sup>st</sup> day. Provided however, if the 31st day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, state holiday, or other day that the licensing office is closed, penalty and interest will not be due until the next business day.

(b) If the non-resident operates a vehicle in Alabama without a current and valid vehicle registration issued by the vehicle owner's previous jurisdiction of residence, Alabama registration fees attach on the day the vehicle(s) enters the state, and if not paid on that date, delinquency penalties attach the following day. Law enforcement may issue a citation for operating the vehicle without current and valid registration when the vehicle enters the state, or when the vehicle registration expires anytime during the 30-day grace period.

(3) Temporary Registrations. A non-resident owner may operate a vehicle in Alabama without a license plate issued to the vehicle owner with a properly displayed current and valid temporary registration.

(4) Reciprocity Agreements. Vehicles exempt from registration in the non-resident owner's jurisdiction of residence may be operated in Alabama if permitted under the conditions of a registration reciprocity agreement with Alabama. It shall be the responsibility of the non-resident owner to prove to the satisfaction of law enforcement that the non-resident owner jurisdiction of residence exempted such vehicles from registration. Provided, the vehicle must be properly registered in Alabama within the time frame specified in this rule.

In the event the department enters into a motor vehicle registration reciprocity agreement with a jurisdiction pursuant to §40-12-262, Code of Ala. 1975, and the

provisions of the reciprocity agreement conflict with the provisions of this rule, the provisions of the agreement shall prevail.

(5) Military Service Members. A U.S. military service member, or their spouse or dependent assigned by virtue of military orders to an Alabama location, may operate a vehicle with a current and valid license plate and registration issued in the jurisdiction of residence in accordance with the Service Members Civil Relief Act, provided compliance with mandatory liability insurance laws.

(6) Non-Resident Students. In accordance with policy positions of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), Alabama will honor current and valid out-of-state license plates and registrations on vehicles operated by non-resident students attending colleges and universities within Alabama, provided compliance with mandatory liability insurance laws. This includes students involved in intern programs.

**Author:** James Starling

**Authority:** §§ 40-2A-7(a)(5) and 40-12-262, Code of Ala.1975. Service Members Civil Relief Act

**History:** **Repealed and New:** Filed December 20, 2021; effective